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TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
The Lords assembled in
PARLIAMENT.

THe Humble Remonstrance of Peter Massey of his Majesties City of York Gent. late one of the Attorneys of his Majesties late Father of ever blessed Memory, in his Court established at York, for the good and benefit of all his, and his now Majesties Subjects, inhabiting within the five Northern Counties of this his Majesties Kingdom of England, which said Court ceased upon the death of Thomas late Earl of Strafford, who for divers years before was Lord President thereof; ever since which time, the said Court hath been laid aside, to the great hurt and damage of his Majesties said late Father, and his good Subjects; and since, to his now Majesties great detriment, in his Majesties Affairs and Interests in those Parts. As also of the like Court established at Ludlow, for his Majesties Principality of Wales, and the adjacent Counties of England, and the benefit, ease and safety of his Majesty, and his Majesties Subjects of his three Kingdoms, which they then would more fully enjoy, by the erecting in each of them of six more such Courts, with little or no hurt to any whatsoever.

SHE WETH,

That when Sir John Hotham, and Francis Thorp, late called Baron Thorp, and other Confederates both in York-shire, and then sitting in both Houses of Parliament, had caused and gotten the said Earl of Strafford to be beheaded; They, the said Confederates, aiming then likewise at the murdering of his Majesties said late Royal Father, and all the rest of his good Subjects; which horrid design they very well knew they could not accomplish, but by putting down two of the best Courts his said Majesties Father then had in all his Dominions, and for that purpose, the said Thorp being a Lawyer, did move very strongly in the House of Commons, against the said Court at York; whereunto the South Country, Burgesses then sitting in the Lower House, made answer, let the Court stand, since we have taken Strafford the Grand Enemy away; and if any Member of the said Court be too blame, during the Sessions of this Parliament, which we know will be long, we can take a course with them, yet may the Court continue. Then immediately stood up the said Hotham, and made his addresse to the then Speaker, and peremptorily told him, that then there would be an end of their designs, and so fate down again; after which the said Speaker commanded the said Hotham to stand up, and explain the meaning of those words he had spoken; whereupon the said Hotham made his addresse to the Speaker, in answer to the said South Country gentlemen, saying, Gentlemen, you that live in the South Parts, without the Jurisdiction of that Court, little know what that Court can do; But we that live within its Jurisdiction, know, that it will keep all those five Northern Counties in subjection to the King; do we what we can: Whereupon, a general vote in the House pass'd, in the affirmative, *Down with it, Down with it, Down with it*; and that single vote was all that was then done against the said Court in the said House, which was in the Moneth of June, 1641.

After which said Vote, the said Peter Massey being then Solicitor for the said Court, with others, since deceased, did then make Application to the House of Lords, who upon, or about the 6th. of July after, upon hearing Counsell, and reading Certificates of many Thousands of good Subjects, living within the Jurisdiction of the said Courts, who then petitioned for it, did then make an Order, That in respect of the great affairs, and Troubles that were then in these Kingdoms, the said Court should be laid aside for a time; and that one Mr. Ibbson, then Register of the said Court, should preserve and keep all the Records of the said Court, and all Writings, and Evidences, and Moneys paid into the said Court, for the use of any Person or Persons whatsoever, save untill further Order by the said House of Lords, which should afterwards be made by them: Which said Court hath ever since so continued, notwithstanding, many Endeavours made by the said Northern Counties, for the reviving of the said Court, which if his Majesty suffer not to continue, and be revived, it will tend to his Majesties great Charge, and Hurt, and to the utter Ruine and Decay of Trade in those Northern Counties.

First, It is most humbly prayed, That by an Act of Parliament, the most Illustrious Prince James Duke of York, may be impowered, and constituted Lord President of the said Court, for the said Northern Counties: And that the said Illustrious Duke may have a constant Lord Vice-President there, to be of such Abilities and Principles as his Majesty shall appoint, and may Repose Confidence in.

Then, and not till then, will his Majesties person be secure; 'And his Majesty may disband the Souldiery,' and his Majesties three Kingdoms will be in a Happy and flourishing condition, all manner of Trading will increase, his Majestie eased of multitudes of Complaints, and his Majesties Subjects wholly rest satisfied; The poor will also be relieved, and there will be no complaining in his Majesties streets: And that in each of his Majesties three Kingdoms, six more such Courts, as above, may be erected in like manner as above, which will be of much ease and Benefit to his Majesties Subjects, being that they shall have Justice so neer them, and at the twentieth part of the Charge of prosecuting any suits at London: There having been more Causes determined at York, in a sitting time, than all the Courts of Westminster have determined in a Term-Time, the parties themselves attending their own business.

And notwithstanding, the said Peter Massey Right to his said place: yet doth he for the Common good of the said City, and five said Counties, disclaim all Interest and title thereto, he being the only surviving Solicitor, as above said; which is the earnest desire of, and shall be the Reall endeavour of.

My Lords,

Your Lordships Most humble, and
most Faithfull Servant.

PETER MASSIE.